



State of Illinois

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Mary A. Gade, Director

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February 22, 1994

Refer to: L1630200005 -- St. Clair County  
Sauget Sites (Area 1) -- Sauget  
Superfund/Compliance

Mr. Michael King, Mayor  
Village of Cahokia  
103 Main Street  
Cahokia, Illinois 62206

Dear Mr. King:

Thank you for the January 17, 1994 letter that outlined the Village of Cahokia's concerns over Dead Creek.

In reference to your constituents' concerns about contaminated groundwater entering homes, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) sampled several residents' basements in Cahokia last year. Sample results did not indicate any contaminants which are known to be present in Dead Creek or the hazardous waste sites in Sauget. These results were sent to the residences whose basements were sampled along with an explanation of results. In addition to this sampling, IEPA also sampled the water in Dead Creek between Queeny Avenue in Sauget and Judith Lane in Cahokia. This sampling indicated that contaminants found in Sauget were present in surface water from Dead Creek. The levels of these contaminants were not high enough to be considered an acute threat to human health, but since the levels were above State water quality standards, these contaminants could have adverse ecological effects in the creek.

Recent concerns over contaminated surface water migrating outside of Dead Creek expressed by yourself and the Mayor of Sauget have been relayed to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to determine if any federal funding was available to perform interim remedies that would alleviate the flooding problems. It was USEPA's opinion that because the levels of contaminants were not high enough to justify an environmental emergency action, federal funds would not be available.

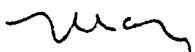
Your letter states that the Village of Cahokia is disappointed that the promise to place the Sauget Area 1 Sites on the "Superfund List" was never kept or started. While I share your views that progress towards placing these sites into the Superfund program has been slow, changes in federal policy regarding the manner in which

potential sites are admitted into the Superfund program have been the primary cause of the delays. Because of these changes, a completed IEPA proposal to place the Sauget Area 1 Sites into the Superfund program in 1989 was invalidated. These sites are not on the Superfund list, however, IEPA is currently assisting the USEPA in preparing a new proposal to name these sites to the Superfund National Priority List that would be consistent with the current federal policy. IEPA anticipates that these sites will be proposed to the Superfund list by late this year.

Concerning your request for a public hearing on Dead Creek, formal public hearings are normally held when public input is being sought for a proposed remedy at a Superfund site. IEPA has in the past held "availability sessions" or public meetings to answer what questions local government and the public may have about the Superfund process and how it relates to the site in question. These meetings are normally held at the beginning of a remedial investigation, which I would expect to occur sometime after the Sauget Sites are proposed to the Superfund National Priority List. It is not known whether IEPA or USEPA would conduct this public meeting, but the meeting will probably be held next year.

We concur with your views that progress on cleanups at Dead Creek has been slow. Hopefully, as the listing process for these sites proceeds, we can look forward to a time when IEPA and Cahokia will be working together in finding solutions to these complex problems at Dead Creek.

Sincerely,



Mary A. Gade  
Director

cc: Mayor Paul Sauget

bcc: Paul Takacs  
Larry Eastep

Mike - I hope this answers some of your questions. I am confident that this is moving (again) toward a solution. Please call me if I can be of any assistance or provide other information. We will work with you as closely as possible.

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